

My name is Seth Kibel. I'm a full-time professional musician working in the Baltimore/Washington metropolitan area.

My primary instruments are clarinet, saxophone, and flute and I freelance in a variety of musical genres -- jazz, blues, swing, rock, classical, and klezmer. With my award-winning "alternative klezmer" band, The Alexandria Kleztet, I've released 2 albums which are currently sold internationally. I also released a solo jazz CD in early 2004.

Needless to say, as someone who specializes in genres of music that are not part of the mainstream, it is exceedingly difficult to get airplay. On a few, smaller independent stations there are a handful of "specialty" shows which will play my recordings, but these are few and far between. There are simply almost no outlets for airplay for music such as acoustic jazz, klezmer, world music, etc. This is largely due, I'm certain, to consolidation in radio station ownership as well as the nationalization of playlists.

If more radio stations could devote at least SOME of their airtime to local music, it would help local musicians such as myself build a base of support in their home region. Lots of people in the Baltimore/Washington area come to hear me play live in local venues -- why can't they hear me play on their local radio stations?

One way to achieve this goal would be to increase the number of low power FM radio stations.

As a professional musician, I'd like to sincerely thank you for seeking input on this matter.